PRESS RELEASE

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THE 1983 MAY SHOW June 8 - July 17, 1983

The Cleveland Museum of Art's 64th annual May Show of works by artists of Ohio's Western Reserve—on view from June 8 through July 17—is one of the largest and one of the most varied May Shows of recent years. It is also the first in the show's history to have been selected by a single juror, retiring Museum director Sherman E. Lee.

Dr. Lee screened 2,788 works by 1,560 artists, choosing 265 works by 234 artists for the 1983 May Show. Last year's show consisted of 181 works by 153 artists, selected by jurors from 2,367 entries by 1,336 artists.

This year six artists received special awards; works by forty-four others were cited for special mention. The large number of special mentions, according to Dr. Lee, reflects the quality of works submitted, many demonstrating a high degree of imagination and technical proficiency.

These two qualities, imagination and technique, are in Dr. Lee's opinion very successfully combined in Gretchen O. Troibner's two large oil paintings, Circe's Children and The Crossing, selected for the \$1000 painting award. The dream-like imagery of both works is open to interpretation. In Circe's Children—the title alludes to the companions of Ulysses who were turned into animals—two young men wearing animal masks stare out at the viewer from behind a wire fence. The Crossing depicts two quaintly dressed children (shepherds?) surrounded by sheep and strangely docile wolves. Mrs. Troibner, who lives in North Olmsted, Ohio, holds a bachelor's degree in art education from Case Western

Reserve University and the Cleveland Institute of Art. She has exhibited paintings in two previous May Shows, receiving special mentions for two paintings in 1981.

The \$1000 award for sculpture was given to Roger Blakley for his seven-foot-high cast bronze, RR-22, described by Dr. Lee as "a work of some complexity, a very fine achievement in a very difficult medium." Mr. Blakley is associate professor at the School of Art and Design at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. A native of Cleveland, he received his B.F.A. from the Cleveland Institute of Art and his M.A. from Kent State University. His work has been exhibited widely, appearing in numerous May Shows since 1966. In the 1975 May Show he was awarded a \$500 prize for two small cast bronze works.

This year, as in the past six years, the \$1000 award for graphics was split between two artists. George Kozmon, Jr. received \$500 for two extremely large and striking drawings of building facades, meticulously executed in conte crayon and ink. The works, entitled Impressions: Europe #19 and Impressions: Europe #24 were commended by Dr. Lee for their unusual viewpoints and for the artist's ability to exploit the textures of stone and to translate the rhythms of the building into pictorial terms. Mr. Kozmon, a 1982 graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art and a resident of Cleveland Heights, has won many other awards for his work. He exhibited in the 1979 and 1982 May Shows, last year receiving special mentions for two drawings.

The other half of the graphics prize went to Robert Pabst for two hand-tinted photographs, <u>Bottles</u> and <u>Still Life with Eggs</u>. "In both of these subtly-colored works, the images are clear and precise—handled in a straightforward yet rather poetic way," explains Dr. Lee. Mr. Pabst, of Wakeman, Ohio, studied at Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Institute of Art, and is now a creative consultant for American Greetings Corporation. He has exhibited in a number of local shows and in one previous May Show, in 1975, when he won a special mention in photography.

Paul Miklowski received the \$1000 award for crafts for a pair of large and handsomely designed stoneware bottles. Dr. Lee points out that although they are related in color, style, and technique, "one looks very masculine, the other very feminine." Mr. Miklowski, who has a pottery studio in Cleveland, lives in Lakewood. His work has been exhibited in many local galleries and shows, including the 1979, 1980, and 1981 May Shows. A jar entered in the 1980 May Show won a special mention for crafts.

Receipient of the Horace E. Potter Memorial Award for Excellence in Crafts-manship is David J. Grandstaff of Cleveland Heights. His prize-winning work, a maple cabinet with beautifully-grained front panels made from spalted (decayed) wood, was commended by Dr. Lee for "sheer excellence of technique and wise use of materials." Mr. Grandstaff, who began working with wood as a hobby some fifteen years ago, has only recently started to exhibit his work. This is the first year he has entered the May Show.

While singling out these works for special honors, Dr. Lee praised the general level of excellence in all works selected for this year's show, commenting in particular on the large number of fine paintings and photographs from which he had to make his choices. He also remarks on the changes occurring in the crafts category. Although there is relatively little metalwork and enameling now, he observes, glass has grown in importance, and this year there is a very strong group of furniture in the show.

As Dr. Lee explains in his introduction to the Museum's May 1983 <u>Bulletin</u>, which serves as a catalogue to this year's May Show, the current exhibition reflects the fluid state of the art world today. While the viewer will see many works by artists working in traditional styles, he will also observe that the boundaries between traditional media are becoming increasingly blurred. "Textiles have become sculptures. Paintings can be reliefs. Sculptures can be ceramic forms.

Print techniques have become even more varied and mixed. Photography continues to appropriate the greater part of what was representational art."

The May Show can be viewed every day except Monday when the Museum is closed. The May Show galleries will be open Friday evenings until $10~\mathrm{pm}$ throughout the exhibition. All galleries in the Museum are open on Wednesday evenings until $10~\mathrm{pm}$.

Gallery talks on the May Show will be given at 1:30 pm on Wednesday,

June 8, and Sunday, June 12, by John Moore, assistant curator in the Museum's

Department of Art History and Education.

Tom Hinson, curator of contemporary art and coordinator of the May Show, questions Dr. Lee about the current show in a slide-tape, May Show 1983:

The Director's Choice, which will be shown in the Museum's audio-visual center while the exhibition is on view. Mr. Hinson will also give a special lecture on the May Show in the Museum's Recital Hall on Wednesday, July 13, at 8:00 pm.

The 1983 May Show is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

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For additional information, photographs, color slides, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.